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RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

OF

ONGAR

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**REPORTS**

OF THE

**MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH**

AND THE

**SANITARY INSPECTOR**

For the Year 1937

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The RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL of ONGAR

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# Annual Report

OF THE

**MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH**

*For the Year 1937.*

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FYFIELD,

ONGAR, Essex.

The Chairman and Gentlemen of the Ongar Rural District Council.

Gentlemen,

I have the pleasure to present my Report on the health of the district for the year 1937.

This has undoubtedly been a satisfactory year ; the birth rate remains at a figure higher than that of the country generally while the death rate, especially that of infants is exceptionally low.

The figures given, low as they are, are subject to correction for age distribution, amounting practically to a reduction of 10%

The drainage and sewage disposal works at Stanford Rivers and Abridge continue to give very satisfactory results, and have been quoted as models for similar work elsewhere.



The drainage of Blackmore has long needed revision. A scheme is now in the hands of the engineer which will end an admittedly unsatisfactory state of affairs.

The continued provision of houses for agricultural workers is a subject for congratulation, though there are still indications that more will be required.

A good many old and worn out cottages have been demolished. On the other hand many have been reconstructed with pleasing results.

### **AIR RAID PRECAUTIONS**

Responsibility for the medical side of these has been assigned to your Medical Officer, who will do his best to ensure that no victim of aerial attack shall lack the appropriate assistance.

Preparations of personnel and material are being concerted with Capt. Maynard, the A.R.P. Officer.

I remain, yours faithfully,

A. S. DAVID, M.O.H.



## APPENDIX 1937.

### Natural and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area in acres, 47,712

Population 1921 Census, 10,140

„ estimated 1937, 12,600

### Physical Features and General Characters.

Average height above sea level, 200 ft.

Preponderating character of soil, London Clay

Rivers, Roding and tributaries

Number of Inhabited Houses, 1921, 2,954

Rateable value, £51,200

Sum represented by a penny rate, £213

Chief occupation of Inhabitants, Agriculture

There is no serious unemployment in the district.

### Vital Statistics.

Live Births	{	Legitimate	M. 101	F. 94	}	205
		Illegitimate	3	7		
Stillbirths :	...	...	...	...		6
Rate per 1000 births	...	...	...	...		29.3
Birth Rate, per 1000 of population	...	...	...	...		16.25
Deaths (all ages),	148					
Death Rate, per 1000	...	...	...	...		10.15
Deaths from Child birth, 0	{ Sepsis 0					
	{ Other causes 0					
Per 1000 births	...	...	...	...		0
Deaths of infants under 1 year,	6					
Rate per 1000 births, 29.7	{ Legitimate 25.6					
	{ Illegitimate 100.0					
Deaths from Measles,	1					
„ „ Whooping Cough,	1					
„ „ Epidemic Diarrhoea,	0					
„ „ Cancer,	13					



No cause of sickness has been specially noteworthy during the year, except for an unusual number of streptococcal sore throats.

Poor Law Relief is given to the amount of £1500 yearly.

## Hospitals.

The Ongar War Memorial Hospital is now in active operation and the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Council are ex-officio members of Committee.

TUBERCULOSIS. Many cases are sent to Sanatoriums provided by the County Council.

MATERNITY	}	No provision.
CHILDREN		

FEVER CASES. Patients are sent under agreement to the Chelmsford Isolation Hospital.

SMALL POX. Patients go to Orsett Hospital.

The Council possesses a Motor Ambulance, which is freely used.

INSTITUTIONAL PROVISION FOR UNMARRIED MOTHERS.  
None.

## Clinics and Treatment Centres.

A Child Welfare Centre is held fortnightly in the Parish Room, Abridge, and another at Chipping Ongar was opened April, 1927. Clinics are held in connection with these.

DAY NURSERIES. None.

SCHOOL CLINICS. Under arrangement.

TUBERCULOSIS DISPENSARIES. None. Patients attend at Epping.

VENEREAL DISEASE. Patients go to Chelmsford or London Hospital.



## TUBERCULOSIS (NEW CASES).

AGE PERIODS	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	PUL-MONARY		NON-PUL-MONARY		PUL-MONARY		NON-PUL-MONARY	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0								
1			1			1		
5				1				
15	1			1				
25		2			1			
35					1			
45								
55						1		
65 and upwards								
Totals	1	2	1	2	2	2	0	0

Prevention of Tuberculosis Regulations 1925. No action.

Public Health Act, 1925, Section 62. No action.

Tuberculosis Schemes. Essex County Scheme in operation.

Venereal Disease. Patients sent to Chelmsford and London Hospital.

## MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

A Health Visitor is provided by the County Council and resides near Ongar.

Six district nurse midwives reside in the district, and others from outside practise in the area.

Infant Welfare Centres are held at Abridge and at Ongar.



Puerperal Fever is rare. No death in 1937.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum. No cases notified in 1937.

MEASLES. An outbreak occurred in the autumn and several cases with lung complications were sent to hospital.

WHOOPING COUGH. One death from this disease.

EPIDEMIC DIARRHŒA. No deaths in 1937.

POLIOMYELITIS. No case in 1937.

A S. DAVID,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH



## Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

### 1.—Inspection of Factories, Workshops & Workplaces, Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspector or Inspector of Nuisances.

Premises.  (1)	Number of		
	Inspections.	Written Notices	Occupiers prosecuted.
	(2)	(3)	(4)
<b>Factories</b> ... (Including Factory Laundries)	30	0	0
<b>Workshops</b> (Including Workshop Laundries)	20	0	0
<b>Workplaces</b> (Other than Outworkers' premises)	0	0	0
<b>Total</b> ...	50	0	0

### 2.—Defects found in Factories, Workshops & Workplaces

Particulars.	Number of Defects.			Number of offences in respect to which Prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied.	Referred to H.M. Inspector	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts:—</i>				
Want of cleanliness .. .. .	2	2	0	0
Want of ventilation .. .. .	1	1	0	0
Overcrowding .. .. .	0	0	0	0
Want of drainage of floors .. .. .	0	0	0	0
Other nuisances .. .. .	0	0	0	0
Sanitary accommodation { insufficient unsuitable or defective. not separate for sexes.	1	1	0	0
	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0
<i>Offences under the Factory and Workshops Acts—</i>				
Illegal occupation of underground bake-house (s. 101)	0	0	0	0
Other offences .. .. .	0	0	0	0
(Excluding offences relating to outwork and offences under the Sections mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories and Workshops Transfer of Powers) Order, 1921 )				
Total .. .. .	4	4	0	0







# The RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL of ONGAR

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## **ANNUAL REPORT**

OF THE

## **SANITARY INSPECTOR**

*For the Year 1937.*

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THE COUNCIL OFFICES,

CHIPPING ONGAR, Essex.

To the Chairman and Members of the Ongar Rural  
District Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting to you my Annual  
Report.

### **BAKEHOUSES**

There are nine bakehouses in this district. These  
are frequently inspected and usually found clean and in  
order.

One hundred and twenty-five inspections have  
been made during the year.

### **DRAINS AND SEWERS**

The combined sewage scheme for the Parishes  
of High Ongar, Chipping Ongar, Shelley, Greensted and  
Stanford Rivers has been in use since the 21st March.  
The flow of sewage as shown by the Lea Recorder is  
23,764,000 gallons.



Forty-two connections to the new sewer have been made, including 20 combined drainage systems.

The sewer has been extended for 975½ yards in Hoe Lane, Abridge, six connections have been made to this length.

The sewage works at Abridge continues to give every satisfaction. On one occasion the electricity fused, but the trouble was soon located and corrected.

A new manhole cover has been fixed in the Abridge village, as the existing one was found to be defective.

The filter beds at Moreton and Blackmore have been cleaned out and re-clinkered, and a satisfactory effluent is now being produced at both works.

During the past year the effluent reports from the County Council for the sewers were as follows :—

#### **Abridge, Lambourne.**

Sample taken	4/5/1937.	Impurity figure	6.5	grains	per	gallon.
"	" 22/9/1937.	"	4.7	"	"	"
"	" 15/11/1937.	"	4.8	"	"	"
"	" 8/12/1937.	"	4.8	"	"	"

#### **Stanford Rivers (Combined Sewage Scheme) Outfall Works.**

Sample taken	3/5/1937.	Impurity figure	2.27	grains	per	gallon.
"	" 22/9/1937.	"	6.2	"	"	"
"	" 15/11/1937.	"	5.0	"	"	"
"	" 8/12/1937.	"	3.7	"	"	"

#### **Moreton.**

Sample taken 1/12/1937. Impurity figure 8.0 grains per gallon as against 60.6 impurity figure on 17/11/1936.

A 10.0 impurity figure is regarded as a passable effluent and a 7.0 impurity figure as a good effluent.



## DISINFECTION

Infectious cases are immediately removed to hospital except in special circumstances where permission is given by the Medical Officer of Health for the patient to be nursed at home. Where the Medical Officer of Health considers advisable, disinfection of the infected premises is carried out. In other cases the tenant is given written instructions to prevent the spread of infection.

## HOUSING ACT, 1936

I have continued the systematic inspection of the whole of the district, under the above Act, which relates to the Survey and inspection of houses with a rateable value of £12 per annum and under. The number inspected during 1937 was 281. The number of formal notices issued, instructing owners to carry out certain minor repairs was 117. Six clearance Areas and 3 Demolition Orders have been recommended by me, comprising 24 houses.

Eighteen Statutory Notices were issued in cases where the Owners failed to comply with the formal repair notices. Six properties were repaired as a result.

One cottage was repaired by the Local Authority in default of Owners.

Twenty-two licences were issued, allowing persons to temporarily overcrowd their cottages. Twenty-six cases of overcrowding were abated during the year. Three new cases of overcrowding were found. Thirty-one certificates were issued as to the number constituting the "Permitted Number" of persons allowed to occupy 253 dwellings.



## HOUSE REFUSE COLLECTION

The Council have their own refuse lorry and employ a loader and driver to carry out the collection of house refuse. A man is also in charge of the controlled tips.

Hard and soft house refuse is collected in the following Parishes :—

Weekly : Chipping Ongar, High Ongar, Greensted and Shelley.

Fortnightly : Village of Abridge.

Hard house refuse is collected in the following Parishes :—

Monthly : Blackmore, Doddinghurst and Lambourne.

Quarterly : Abbess Roding, Beauchamp Roding, High Laver, Kelvedon Hatch, Moreton, Stapleford Abbots and Stondon Massey.

During 1937 an average of 26 tons of rubbish per week has been collected.

## MILK SUPPLY

Milk Producers and Traders are registered and their premises are frequently inspected. Advice is given and samples of milk are taken to ascertain if the milk produced is clean.

Number of Producers & Traders on Register 1/1/37	141
Number registered during 1937 ... ..	10
Number taken off register ... ..	6
Total on register 31/12/37 ... ..	145



## Public Health Officers.

M.O.H. A. S. DAVID, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.  
Part time. Contribution to salary by Essex  
County Council.

SANITARY INSPECTOR. P. R. B. PEARCE, A.S.I.,  
M.S.I.A. Whole time. Contribution to salary  
by Essex County Council

A HEALTH VISITOR is maintained by Essex County  
Council.

## Professional Nursing in the Home.

GENERAL. A Nurse is maintained in Ongar by  
voluntary subscriptions. The six District Nurses do  
a good deal of nursing apart from maternity work.  
Grants are made by the Council to the Nursing  
Associations.

MEASLES. In case of an epidemic the M.O.H. has  
power to employ a temporary nurse for the care of  
patients in their homes.

Occasional severely complicated cases go to the  
Isolation Hospital.

CHEMICAL WORK. No special arrangement. The  
M.O.H. examines samples of water for fitness. Bac-  
teriological examinations are done by the Counties  
Public Health Laboratory.

## Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

### WATER SUPPLY.

Several extensions of main water supply notably at  
Moreton, High Ongar and Stapleford Abbotts have been  
made during the year and provision for further ex-  
tensions has been made by the Water Company who have  
laid a nine inch main from Harlow to Shelley.

Schemes for supply of parts of the district which  
are as yet not touched are before the Council and the  
Ministry of Health but not yet decided on.



Parishes supplied entirely or mostly by Company's mains are :—

Chipping Ongar  
High Ongar  
Bobbingworth  
Greensted  
Lambourne  
Theydon Mount  
Stanford Rivers  
Shelley  
Stapleford Abbotts  
Kelvedon Hatch  
Moreton

The Council have their own scheme for the supply of water to the parishes of Doddinghurst and Blackmore and 77 new consumers are supplied from the main.

Supply is constant and satisfactory. The water is derived from deep wells in the chalk at Sawbridgeworth and on analysis has been found pure.

The parishes of :—

Fyfield  
Willingale  
Shellow Bowells  
Berners Roding  
Abbess Roding  
Little Laver  
Parts of High Laver  
" " Navestock  
Norton Mandeville  
Stapleford Tawney

are mostly dependent on shallow wells for supply. Isolated cottages often have no well and either use surface water near to hand or obtain water by consent of neighbours at some distance. There are 168 such cases or roughly 7% of all cottages. Further main extensions are contemplated in High Laver, Doddinghurst and Willingale.

#### DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

A new disposal plant for modern treatment of Ongar Sewerage is now completed and in working order at



Stanford Rivers and recent tests have shown efficient working in purification.

These works receive sewerage from Chipping Ongar, Shelley, High Ongar, and a large part of Stanford Rivers with facilities for drainage of Stondon Massey and Kelvedon Hatch by further extensions.

They represent a great step forward in the sanitation of the District

The Abridge sewage works continue to provide satisfactory purification.

At Moreton the sewage is treated by continuous filtration through gravel beds and is quite often satisfactory, though this village should be connected to Ongar Sewer.

At Blackmore the old contact beds are still in existence. There is no doubt that new works are required here and the matter has been referred to the Engineer for preparation of a scheme.

#### CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

The general policy where there are no sewers is to provide houses with pail closets and to convert existing privies to pail closets.

Approximate number of privies with open middens	50
"          "          "          " closed "	50
"          "          pail closets ... ..	1444
"          "          water closets ... ..	726
No conversions during 1937.	

#### HOUSE REFUSE COLLECTION.

Chipping Ongar, Greensted, High Ongar and Shelley house refuse is collected weekly, the refuse being disposed of by burial in a disused gravel pit. Ashbins (movable) are used, there being no fixed receptacle. The contents are removed by covered motor van.

Fortnightly collection in village of Abridge.

Monthly collection at Blackmore, Doddinghurst and Lambourne.

Quarterly collection at Abbess Roding, Beauchamp Roding, High Laver, Kelvedon Hatch, Moreton, Stapleford Abbotts and Stondon Massey.



## SANITARY INSPECTION OF AREA.

A large number of inspections are made jointly with the Sanitary Inspector, whose report is appended—

## Joint Inspection of Premises—

Of Houses	...	...	...	260
„ Schools	...	...	...	6
„ Water Supplies	...	...	...	14
„ Infectious Disease and Contacts	...	...	...	21
„ Dairies	...	...	...	2
„ Bakehouses	...	...	...	1

## SMOKE ABATEMENT.

No action.

## SCHOOLS.

These have been visited and found in good sanitary order, with the exception of Moreton School, where a cesspool exists which serves no useful purpose, the overflow draining into the public sewer.

The cesspool has caused pollution of an adjacent public well, now closed in consequence.

## RAG FLOCK ACTS.

There are no premises in the area for manufacture of rag flock.

## Housing Statistics for 1937.

## NUMBER OF NEW HOUSES ERECTED DURING 1937—

(1) By the Local Authority	...	45
(2) By other Bodies or Persons	...	52
Additions to dwelling houses	...	18

## 1. INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR—

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	...	281
---	-----	-----	-----



(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ... ..	473
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 ...	257
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ... ..	390
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ...	24
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ... ..	117
2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES—	
Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	120
3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR—	
A—Proceedings under sections 17, 18, and 23 of the Housing Act, 1930 :	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ...	20
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :	
(a) By Owners ... ..	8
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners ... ..	1
B—Proceedings under Public Health Acts :	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ... ..	0



(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :

(a) by Owners	...	...	...	0
(b) by Local Authority in default of Owners	...	...	...	0

C—Proceedings under sections 19 and 21 of the Housing Act, 1930 :

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	...	...	3
(2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	...	...	0

D—Proceedings under section 20 of the Housing Act, 1930 :

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	...	...	...	0
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	...	...	...	0

#### 4. HOUSING ACT, 1935. OVERCROWDING.

(a) (1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	...	...	...	61
(2) Number of families dwelling therein	...	...	...	61
(3) Number of persons dwelling therein	...	...	...	334
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	...	...	...	4
(c) (1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	...	...	...	26
(2) Number of persons concerned in such cases	...	...	...	181

## Inspection of Food.

### MILK SUPPLY.

A general supervision is exercised over Dairies and Cowsheds as to cleanliness and construction. Milk for sale is also tested for cleanliness. Over 150 samples have been taken during the year.



The Essex County Council have taken samples of Milk for biological examination for tubercle from 42 farms in the district. Two of these gave a positive result or 5 per cent. This is a marked improvement on former years.

28 Samples examined for bacterial tests in connection with supply to children in schools.

#### MEAT.

Inspections made daily as routine work.

Surrenders of unsound meat during 1937 ... 2

Shops are supervised as to cleanliness generally.

No public slaughter house exists.

Number of private slaughter houses in use—

			Dec. 31st. 1937.
Registered	—	—	6
Licensed	—	—	11

Also 1 licensed Knackers Yard.

#### BAKEHOUSES.

These have all been inspected and found to be in satisfactory state.

### Prevalence and Control over Infectious Diseases

The year has been characterized by average incidence of infectious disease. The Schick test has been used and immunization carried out on children coming to the Ongar Children's Homes.

Diphtheria antitoxin is provided by the Council and freely used on occasion.

Pathological and Bacteriological specimens are sent to the Counties Laboratory, Queen Victoria Street. Examinations are paid for by the County Council.



Number of specimens examined by Bacteriologist during 1937—

Diphtheria Swabs	...	...	29
Sputa	...	...	17
Typhoid	...	...	3
Ringworm	...	...	0
Miscellaneous	...	...	36

Cases of infectious diseases are investigated personally by the M.O.H. or conjointly with the S.I.

Most cases go to hospital.

An epidemic of Influenza occurs every winter and is usually mild in type.

No provision is made except at the Workhouse for the cleansing of verminous persons and the want is not felt.

### Notifiable Diseases, 1936.

DISEASE	NUMBER NOTIFIED	SENT TO HOSPITAL	DEATHS
Small Pox	0	0	0
Scarlet Fever	31	29	0
Diphtheria	10	10	0
Enteric Fever	1	1	0
Puerperal Fever	0	0	0
„ Pyrexia	1	1	0
Pneumonia	12	12	7
Erysipelas	2	0	0

Cases arranged according to ages :—

0—1	0	4—5	2	20—35	7
1—2	1	5—10	11	35—45	1
2—3	1	10—15	13	45—65	2
3—4	1	15—20	7	65 & over	2



two licences to retail "Pasteurised" and two licences to retail "Tuberculin Tested" milk are issued yearly.

Total of samples taken, including the	
minute test ... ..	150

### **MILK IN SCHOOLS**

I have taken samples of milk supplied to schools in my District. During the year 28 samples have been taken, 23 of which have been found satisfactory.

### **PETROLEUM ACTS, 1926—1936**

Under the new Acts licences are granted under a scale of charges varying in fees according to the quantity stored.

All premises are inspected as to safety before a licence is granted or renewed.

The law requires that an efficient fire extinguisher must be provided where petrol is stored above ground.

Number of licences issued during 1937 44

One licence was transferred during 1937.

### **PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS**

Nuisances abated ... ..	35
-------------------------	----

Complaints made... ..	20
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### **RAT DESTRUCTION**

Destruction of rats at the Sewage Works and Refuse dumps has always been carried out at intervals. Personal advice and assistance is given to persons who apply.

Rat posters are fixed up every year in the District.



One person was served with a notice to destroy the rats on his premises. The notice was complied with without delay.

### **SCHOOLS**

Schools are visited and any complaints are brought to the notice of the Managers, who usually put matters in order.

Water from the main has now been provided at the Moreton School.

Improvements have been carried out to the High Laver School.

### **SHOPS ACT, 1934**

Shops are frequently visited and advice is given regarding cleanliness, food storage and ventilation.

One seizure of food was made in 1937.

### **SLAUGHTERHOUSES**

There are six registered and 11 licensed slaughterhouses in my district, also one knacker's yard.

Particular attention is paid to meat and other foods, and slaughterhouses are visited regularly and advice is given to traders as to cleanliness, storage and sanitary defects.

Occasional killing of pigs only is allowed on unlicensed premises providing approval is obtained and written permission is given.

Two surrenders of meat were made during 1937. which were destroyed as directed by me.

All slaughtermen are licensed with the Local Authority and the use of the humane killer is in force on animals except sheep.



### **WATER SUPPLY**

Seven samples of water were submitted for Chemical and Bacteriological examination, five of which which were found unfit for drinking and domestic use.

Seven samples of water were analysed by the Medical Officer of Health, four of which were also found to be unfit for domestic use.

In all cases the persons using the contaminated water were warned and the owners of the supplies were asked to provide a wholesome supply.

I have the honour to be, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

PARMENAS R. B. PEARCE.



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West Essex Printing Co., Ltd.,  
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